

Jason of Star Command

Jason of Star Command is a 1978–79 live action television series by Filmation.^[3] The series revolves around the exploits of space adventurer Jason (Craig Littler) and his colleagues, including Professor E.J. Parsafoot (Charlie Dell) and the pocket robot "Wiki" (formally W1K1). The series also stars Sid Haig as the evil Dragos, and, in the first season, James Doohan.^[1] *Jason* was inspired by Filmation's 1977 live-action show *Space Academy*, and used the same robot, Peepo.^[4]

Opening narration

Danger hides in the stars! This is the world of Jason of Star Command. A space-age soldier of fortune determined to stop the most sinister force in the universe: Dragos, master of the cosmos. Aiding Jason is his battle against evil is a talented team of experts, all working together in a secret section of Space Academy. Jason of Star Command!

Overview

Season 1

Its first season, which was a segment of *Tarzan and the Super 7*,^[5] was done in the style of the movie serials of the past, telling a single overall story with 16 "chapters" of approximately 15 minutes' length, each ending in a cliffhanger.^[6] The second season was a stand-alone, half-hour series.^[7] Filmation would later revisit the serial format with both their rendition of *The New Adventures of Flash Gordon* and "The Great Space Chase" segment of *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse and Heckle & Jeckle*.

Jason flies a "Starfire". This fast spaceship has a "star pod" that can separate from the ship in an emergency. Dragos commands the vast "Dragonship", similar to the Space Academy in that it was built on a large asteroid. Dragos' fighter craft are unmanned drones. This was a choice made by the series'

Jason of Star Command

Created by	Arthur H. Nadel
Directed by	Arthur H. Nadel
Presented by	Filmation
Starring	Craig Littler Charlie Dell Sid Haig Susan O'Hanlon James Doohan^[1] Tamara Dobson^[2] John Russell
Composers	Yvette Blais Jeff Michael
Country of origin	United States
No. of seasons	2
No. of episodes	28
Production	
Executive producers	Norm Prescott Lou Scheimer
Producer	Arthur H. Nadel
Running time	30 min. (with commercials)
Production company	Filmation
Original release	
Network	CBS
Release	September 9, 1978 – December 1, 1979
Related	
<i>Space Academy</i>	

producers and repeatedly pointed out in the plot, so that the destruction of these craft would not involve killing a pilot. The series aired on Saturday mornings, and deadly violence had to be kept to a minimum.

Season 2

James Doohan left the series at the end of the first season to join the rest of the original *Star Trek* cast in *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. He was replaced by John Russell, who played the blue-skinned "by the book" Commander Stone. Originally, Jonathan Harris was to have reprised his role as Commander Gampu from *Space Academy*, but according to the DVD booklet, he "had a falling out" with Filmation, thus the creation of Doohan's character.

The asteroid prop used for *Space Academy* was re-used for *Jason of Star Command*, where Star Command was stated to be "in a secret section of Space Academy". Other than the appearance of the robot Peepo and the appearance of a Seeker shuttle piloted by Lt. Matt Prentiss (John Berwick), no references were made to the characters or situations in *Space Academy*.

After the first run episodes that were shown on CBS during the fall lineup on CBS Saturday Morning, *Jason of Star Command* was replaced by *Shazam!* in January 1980. *Jason of Star Command* moved to Sunday morning at 8:30am ET for a year and two months, before returning to Saturday at 1:00pm ET, right before *30 Minutes*.

Episodes

Season One

15-minute segments from *Tarzan and the Super 7*:

1. "Attack of the Dragonship" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
2. "Prisoner of Dragos" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
3. "Escape from Dragos" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
4. "A Cry for Help" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
5. "Wiki to the Rescue" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
6. "Planet of the Lost" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
7. "Marooned in Time" (written by David Villaire)
8. "Attack of the Dragons" (written by Don Heckman)
9. "Peepo's Last Chance" (written by Don Heckman)
10. "The Disappearing Man" (written by Sid Morse)
11. "The Haunted Planet" (written by Ted Pedersen and Martha Humphreys)
12. "Escape from Kesh" (written by Chuck Menville)
13. "Return of the Creature" (written by Len Janson)
14. "Peepo on Trial" (written by Chuck Menville)
15. "The Trojan Horse" (written by Ted Pedersen and Martha Humphreys)
16. "The Victory of Star Command" (written by Don Heckman)

Season Two

30-minute episodes, aired as *Jason of Star Command*:

1. "Mission to the Stars" (written by Ted Pedersen)
2. "Frozen in Space" (written by Margaret Armen)
3. "Web of the Star Witch" (written by Ted Pedersen)
4. "Beyond the Stars!" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
5. "Secret of the Ancients" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
6. "The Power of the Star Disk" (written by Samuel A. Peeples)
7. "Through the Stargate" (written by Lynn Barker)
8. "Face to Face" (written by Don Heckman)
9. "Phantom Force" (story by Joe Mazzuca, teleplay by Ted Pedersen)
10. "Little Girl Lost" (written by Jackson Gillis)
11. "Mimi's Secret" (story by Jackson Gillis, teleplay by Jackson Gillis and Michael Halperin)
12. "Battle for Freedom" (written by Alf Harris)

DVD release

BCI Eclipse LLC, under license from Entertainment Rights, released the entire series on DVD in Region 1 on May 8, 2007.^[8] The three-disc set contains all 28 episodes from seasons one and two, digitally remastered for optimum audio and video quality, and presented uncut and in story continuity order. As well as an array of special features including commentary tracks and photo and art galleries. The galleries also contain characters sheets for the proposed but never produced animated version of the show.^[7]

As of 2011, this release has been discontinued and is out of print as BCI Eclipse has ceased operations.^[9]

References

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5. Hyatt, Wesley (1997). *The Encyclopedia of Daytime Television* (<https://archive.org/details/encyclopediaofda00hyat>). Watson-Guptill Publications. p. 235 (<https://archive.org/details/encyclopediaofda00hyat/page/235>). ISBN 978-0-8230-8315-2. Retrieved 22 March 2020.
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External links

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